



State Resources for Parents - West Virginia

Green text indicates a program available to parents regardless of income level.

Health and Wellness Benefits

[West Virginia Children's Health Insurance Program](#), WVCHIP, was created to help working families who do not have other health insurance for their children.

- **Eligibility:**
 - Your children may be eligible if they reside in West Virginia, are under age 19, are not eligible for West Virginia Medicaid, are United States citizens or qualified immigrants (Children who are not U.S. citizens must provide verification of their immigration status.), children who are members of federally recognized American Indian or Native Alaskan tribes are not required to pay co-payments or premiums once enrolled in the West Virginia Children's Health Insurance Program.
 - WVCHIP income guidelines are based on family size. Family size means the number of individuals you have claimed on your federal tax return.
- **Application:** Visit www.healthcare.gov to apply and see what you are eligible for; Call the toll-free helpline at 1-800-318-2596 if you have questions that aren't on the website; [Downloading an application \(Requires free Adobe Reader\)](#); or visit [here](#) to apply online.

Food Benefits

[Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#) is administered by DHHR and governed by federal law and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Nutrition Services. SNAP provides monthly benefits to help eligible households buy food. Eligibility to receive benefits is based on household size, income, assets and some household expenses as determined by the federal government.

- **Eligibility information:** You have a current bank balance (savings and checking combined) under \$2,001, or you have a current bank balance (savings and checking combined) under \$3,001 who share their household a person or persons age 60 and over or a person with a disability (a child, your spouse, a parent, or yourself). More information on eligibility is located [here](#).
- **How to apply:** Application for services is [here](#).



Child Care and Early Childhood Education Benefits

[WV Head Start and Early Head Start Programs](#) provide children with essential educational resources, including school readiness, so that every child is awarded an opportunity to learn. West Virginia Head Start programs help parents grow as individuals, professionally and within their families, through training and leadership opportunities. West Virginia Head Start offers these services with the ultimate goal of providing the opportunity for success to each participating family.

[Early Care Share West Virginia](#) is a free resource designed to share information, cost savings, and management resources to help early childhood programs, professionals and students access up-to-date state-specific and national information. The site provides access to forms, handbooks, policies, cost savings, classroom material templates and more. Membership is entirely free.

[WV Pre-K](#) West Virginia passed legislation in 2002 requiring the state to expand access to preschool education programs in order to make prekindergarten available to all 4-year-olds in the state by the 2012-2013 school year. West Virginia's preschool program, called West Virginia Universal Pre-K, is available in all 55 counties. West Virginia requires that a minimum of half of the programs operate in collaborative settings with private prekindergarten, child care centers, or Head Start programs in order to facilitate expansion of the program. For more information, visit the WVDE Office of Early Learning.

[WV Birth to Three](#) is a statewide system of services and supports for children under age three who have a delay in their development, or may be at risk of having a delay, and their family. The Department of Health and Human Resources, through the Bureau for Public Health and the Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health, WV Birth to Three, as the lead agency for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), assures that family centered, community based services are available to all eligible children and families at no cost.

- **Eligibility:** An infant or toddler under the age of three can either have a delay in one or more areas of their development, or be at risk of possibly having delays in the future.
- **How to apply/referral:** To refer a child to the WV Birth to Three system, complete the WVBTT Referral Form or you may call 1-866-321-4728.

[WV State Statewide Afterschool Network](#) works to sustain a statewide partnership to raise awareness of the importance of accessibility of high-quality afterschool and summer learning programs for all school age children, share criteria of effective programs and best practices among providers and the public and promote the sustainability of such programs throughout the state.

[West Virginia Infant/Toddler Specialists Network](#) provides technical assistance and professional development opportunities to caregivers of infants and toddlers. The 12 specialists



across the state assist caregivers in providing West Virginia's youngest children supportive, nurturing environments. Their mission is to help these caregivers foster responsive relationships with both children and their families, which will support children in achieving optimal developmental outcomes.

WV Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care Designation is a voluntary program to support families in their choice of infant feeding plans. If you would like more information, please contact your local Child Care Resource and Referral agency's Infant/Toddler Specialist. As most employed mothers return to work during their baby's first year of life with limited or no support from employers with the breastfeeding process, child care providers can play a critical role in providing breastfeeding support.

- **How to apply:** Application is [here](#).

Disability and Special Education Benefits

A Parent's Advocacy Guide to Special Education: A Companion Guide to WV Policy 2419 Version 2.0 is designed to be a companion guide to West Virginia Department of Education Policy 2419 effective September 15, 2014. This Guide explains that parents have numerous legal rights and self-advocacy tools at their disposal. It is important for parents to recognize and understand these legal rights and self-advocacy tools and how and when to use them in order to obtain necessary services for their children. This guide includes programming, eligibility, and resources for parents.

Cash and Career Benefits

WV WORKS provides monthly cash assistance to eligible families. Most people who receive a monthly WV WORKS benefit also receive SNAP and Medicaid, but these are not guaranteed based just on receipt of WV WORKS.

- To be eligible for West Virginia WORKS, you must be a resident of West Virginia, and a U.S. citizen, legal alien or qualified alien. You must be unemployed or underemployed and have low or very low income. To determine further eligibility and apply for benefits, visit the [WV Path website](#) or contact your local DHHR office. Click [here](#) for a list of all county offices.

Other

School Clothing Allowance (SCA) program provides vouchers for clothing appropriate for school such as pants, shirts, skirts, dresses, shoes, coats, underwear and other basic clothing. Piece goods may be purchased to make clothing if the family desires. Purchases made with the vouchers are exempt from sales tax and some stores offer discounts to customers who use the vouchers in their stores.



- **How to apply:** Applications will be accepted from July 1 through July 31 or as designated by the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources. Vouchers must be redeemed by October 31 of the current program year. Clothing cannot be returned for cash (only exchanged).
- For more information, reach out to [your county's DHHR office](#).

Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) assists eligible households with the cost of home heating through direct cash payments or payments to utility companies on their behalf. A crisis component is available for households without resources facing the loss of a heating source.

- **Eligibility** for both program components is based on a combination of factors, including income, type of heating payment, and total heating costs.
- For more information, reach out to [your county's DHHR office](#).

Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) Applications are currently being accepted and will continue until funds are exhausted. This federally funded program assists eligible state residents in paying water or wastewater bills.

- **Eligibility** for LIHWAP benefits is based on income, household size and whether the household is responsible for paying water or wastewater bills. To qualify, the household must meet all program guidelines, which includes an applicant's annual income being at or below 60 percent of the State Median Income. Face-to-face interviews in a local DHHR office are also required.
- For more information, reach out to [your county's DHHR office](#).

Emergency Assistance program is used to assist individuals and families in meeting financial crises when they are without available resources. The program is designed to provide short-term emergency financial assistance with which eligible individuals and families may obtain items or services needed to eliminate an emergency or crisis. Items of need include rent utilities, food, household supplies, clothing, transportation and medical service. Assistance is limited to one 30 consecutive day period during any 12 consecutive months.

- For more information, reach out to [your county's DHHR office](#).